

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings.

1. (currently amended) In a method ~~[[of]]~~ for use in conjunction with a fire extinguishing spraying apparatus, said apparatus comprising a source of ~~[[a]]~~ an extinguishing medium, ~~[[a]]~~ pump means, and means for passing at least a proportion of the medium to at least one nozzle ~~[[4]]~~, the improvements comprising:

re-circulating at least some of the extinguishing medium which is not passed to the nozzle back to a suction side of the pump means ~~[[3]]~~; and

passing at least some of the re-circulated extinguishing medium ~~re-circulated~~ into a discharge pipe ~~[[15]]~~ and ~~[[not]]~~ any remaining re-circulated extinguishing medium to the pump means (3).

2. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the flow into the discharge pipe ~~[[15]]~~ is restricted.

3. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least some of the medium being re-circulated is passed into the discharge pipe ~~[[15]]~~ if the temperature of the medium reaches a set value.

4. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the passage into the discharge pipe $[(15)]$ is opened and/or closed by means of a valve element $[(7)]$ controlled on the basis of the temperature of the medium.

5. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the flow rate of the medium being re-circulated is reduced when the flow rate of the extinguishing medium supplied to the nozzles $[(4)]$ is increased.

6. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the flow rate of the medium being re-circulated is increased when the flow rate of the extinguishing medium supplied to the nozzles $[(4)]$ is reduced.

7. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the medium is a water-based liquid.

8. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the medium is re-circulated at a pressure of 1-300 bar.

9. (currently amended) In a fire extinguishing spraying apparatus comprising a source of $[[a]]$ an extinguishing medium, $[[a]]$ pump means, and means for conducting at least some of the extinguishing medium to at least one nozzle $[(4)]$, the improvements comprising:
means for re-circulating at least some of the extinguishing medium from a pressure side of the pump means $[(3)]$ to a suction side of the pump means; $[[,]]$ and

means for passing at least some of the extinguishing medium being re-circulated into a discharge pipe [(15)] and any remaining extinguishing medium being re-circulated into the pump means.

10. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pump means [(3)] is at least one of a constant-volume pump or a piston pump.

11. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the means for recirculating comprises a passage (13,14) from the pressure side of the pump means [(3)] to its suction side, said passage being provided with a pressure valve [(6)].

12. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the apparatus comprises a valve element [(7)] for opening passage into the discharge pipe [(15)].

13. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the apparatus comprises means [(8)] for opening and/or closing the valve element [(7)] on the basis of the temperature of the medium.

14. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pump means [(3)] is a 1-300 bar pressure pump.

15. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the discharge pipe [(15)] is provided with a throttle element [(9)].

16. (currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the passage ~~[(14)]~~ is provided with a check valve ~~[(16)]~~ to prevent the admission of the medium being pumped from the suction side of the pump directly into the discharge pipe ~~[(15)]~~.